

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1.-13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A seatbelt locking apparatus comprising:

a seatbelt lock that is moveable between an operating position and a safety position, which safety position is lowered relative to said operating position; and

a preventive tensioning device which is operable to move said seatbelt lock between said operating position and said safety position, and which comprises an energy accumulator and a drive unit that are coupled to said seatbelt lock; wherein,

said energy accumulator is maintained in a preloaded state when said seatbelt lock is in said operating position, and is releasable to move said seatbelt lock from said operating position to said safety position;

said drive unit is operable to move said seatbelt lock from said safety position back into said operating position; and

said drive unit is further operable to move said seatbelt lock from said operating position into a comfort position, which is raised relative to said operating position.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A synchronizing unit for a seatbelt lock having a preventive tensioning device for controlling tensioning, reversing and locking of said seatbelt lock, said synchronizing unit comprising:

first and second locking blocks which are mounted within a spring housing of a spring for driving said preventive tensioning device, such that said locking blocks are rotatable relative to each other; wherein,

an axial end of said first locking block abuts and engages with an axial end of said second locking block under tension of said spring; and

locking and releasing of said preventive tensioning device are controlled by a relative rotational position of said first and second locking blocks.